# Department of Historic Resources
## Intensive Level Survey

**Isle Of Wight**

***DHR Id#:* 046-0090**

### *Resource Identification*

*Property Name(s):* ..... Prucen Farm {Current}
*Property Date:* ..... ca 1820
*Address(s):* ..... 21329 Quaker Road {Current}
*County/Independent City:* Isle Of Wight
City: ..... Windsor
*State, Zip:* .....Virginia 23487
*USGS Quad Name:* ..... WINDSOR
*Surrounding area:* ..... Rural

***National Register Eligibility Status***
Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Property has been recommended Eligible for listing or is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

The property recieved an evaluation rating of 34.00.

### *Resource Description*

*Ownership Status:* ..... Private
*Acreage:* ..... 159.0

*Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:*

| Component | Comp Type/Form | Material | Material Treatment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chimneys | Chimneys - Exterior end | Brick | Foundation - 3-course American Bo |
| Roof | Roof - Gable | Asphalt | Roof - Shingle |
| Foundation | Foundation - Solid | Brick | Foundation - 3-course American Bo |
| Porch | Porch - 1-story | Wood | Porch - Enclosed |
| Structural System | Structural System - Frame | Wood | Structural System - Aluminum Sidin |
| Windows | Windows - Sash, double-hung | Wood | Windows - 6/9 |
| Windows | Windows - Sash, double-hung | Wood | Windows - 9/9 |
| Windows | Windows - Sash, double-hung | Wood | Windows - 6/6 |
| Windows | Windows - Sash, double-hung | Wood | Windows - 4/4 |

*Site Description:* ..... The Pruden Farm is sited on high ground overlooking Lake Burnt Mills, in a rural, unspoiled setting characterized by traditional open fields and timber land. The house and its significant collection of early outbuildings – slave house, kitchen, smokehouse and 3 corn cribs – are arranged around a working yard, with the outbuildings forming the east and north edges of the yard, while the original house and its early addition form an L-plan that encloses the yard to the south and west. Quaker Road (Rt. 654) runs east west in front of the house, to the south, then turns 90 degrees to the north just past the house, forming the western boundary of the house yard. The setting around the house and outbuildings is enhanced by a number of mature shade trees, crepe myrtles and cedars.

*Secondary Resource Desc:*

Kitchen: Immediately behind the original story and a half section of the house stands an intact kitchen of about the same date (ca. 1820-21), which still retains its original flush exterior sheathing and original exterior chimney. The unfinished cooking room on the ground floor was completely segregated from the attic room, which was accessible only via an exterior stair leading up to an original door in the west gable end; stair is missing but there is clear evidence of the supporting platform still visible on the hewn and pit-sawn exterior and interior framing members. A brick-lined root cellar survives in place underneath, accessible by means of a small trap door in the southwest corner of the cooking room floor. There is a 20th century open shed added to the rear.

Slave House: At the east fence line of the yard stands a two-room, central chimney slave house dating from the 1840-1860 period, based on the presences of a few original circular-sawn members interspersed among the largely hewn and sash-sawn frame. The unfinished, whitewashed interior is divided into two rooms by a rough weather boarded partition, positioned to create a larger and smaller room, with no communication between rooms. Entrance was through separate exterior doors on the front or west elevation. The surviving chimney incorporates large splayed jamb fireplaces in each room. The exterior retains most of the original square-edged sash-sawn weatherboards.

Smokehouse: Just east of the house stands the well-preserved smokehouse, most likely also built in the 1820's. It is covered with flush, bevel-edged sheathing boards like those on the kitchen, applied to a secure close-studded frame composed of a mixture of hewn, pit-sawn and sash-sawn members.

Corn Cribs: The northeast corner of the yard is framed by three log corn cribs – two dating from the mid-19th century that face west (south and middle cribs) and a third (north) crib dating from about 1900 – but all sharing a similar traditional gable-roofed form with a variety of early and more modern sheds. The two early cribs retain their original double-sheathed doors on wrought strap hinges. South Crib – Built ca. 1850-60, with saddle notched cypress logs on a hewn sill. The sheds on the north and south sides date from the early 20th century. The series of bird holes cut into the front gable were for doves, according to family tradition; there were nesting boxes inside formed by lapped vertical and horizontal boards; rests on original continuous brick foundation. Middle Crib – Probably built slightly earlier than the south crib, based on the presence of hewn and pit-sawn timbers used in conjunction with the heavy circular-sawn false plates. Both sheds are framed with hewn and pit-sawn timbers suggesting they were early additions. The small access door in the front gable is topped by the remains of an early projecting hoist beam; rests on brick piers. North Crib: While built ca. 1900, this crib is similar to its earlier neighbors, here with slightly smaller diameter cypress logs used for the wall construction; rests on brick piers.

Chicken House: A small ca. 1945-50 wood frame shed-roofed chicken house stands north of the house.

*WUZIT Count:*

| No. | Wuzit Types | Historic? |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Archaeological Site | Historic |
| 1 | Kitchen | Contributing |
| 1 | Smoke/Meat House | Contributing |
| 1 | Single Dwelling | Contributing |
| 1 | Servant Quarters | Contributing |
| 3 | Corncrib/barn | Contributing |

*NR Resource Count:*

# Department of Historic Resources
## Intensive Level Survey

**Isle Of Wight** ***DHR Id#:*** **046-0090**

***Individual Resource Information***

*WUZIT:* ..... Chicken House

*Est. Date of Construction:* .... 1940 ca
*Accessed?* .....
*Primary Resource?* ..... No
*Number of Stories:* ..... 0.0
*Interior Plan Type:* .....
*Threats to Resource:* .....

*Description:* A small ca. 1945-50 wood frame shed-roofed chicken house stands north of the house.

*WUZIT:* ..... Single Dwelling

*Est. Date of Construction:* .... 1820 ca {Tax Records}
*Accessed?* ..... Yes
*Primary Resource?* ..... Yes
*Number of Stories:* ..... 1.5
*Architectural Style:* ..... Federal
*Condition:* ..... Good
*Interior Plan Type:* ..... Hall Parlor
*Threats to Resource:* ..... Deterioration

*Description:* Changes in tax valuations indicate that the earliest story-and-a-half portion of the house- the present rear wing- was built ca 1820-21 during the ownership of Nathaniel Pruden, whose holdings then included 609 acres. As the owner of seven slaves in 1820, Pruden ranked among the top six percent of the country's slave owners. This early hall-chamber dwelling was finished in the plain late Federal manner of rural southeastern Virginia with flat-paneled wainscoting, nine-over-nine windows and an enclosed winder stair. The interiors are largely unaltered, and retain six panel Federal doors and plain period mantels. Apparently contemporary with this first house is the south facing porch or portico, with its bold turned posts, scalloped eave treatment, and integral benches supported by shaped brackets. The one remaining double shoulder chimney shows the use of three to one common bond brickwork and stepped shoulder form that had become universal in the region by the 1820s. Alterations have been confined to the addition of a north-south partition wall in the larger west room or hall to create a bathroom, and the enclosure of the early shed-roofed rear porch. The original wood porch floor was replaced with a concrete slab supported by a brick foundation wall.

This early section was re-oriented by the addition of a two-story, side-passage section at the west end, probably completed during the 1830s or 1840s under Pruden's ownership. This addition resulted in the replacement of the former original west chimney with a doorway that provided a link to the newly created side passage. Many original exterior details remain visible, including the nine-over-nine and six-over-nine sashes, an unusual arched gable end window treatment, and a block modillion cornice- the latter two elements now clad in modern aluminum but surviving underneath. The stepped shoulder chimney at the north end shows the same bond, shoulder configuration and detailing as the earliest one. In this section, the somewhat more stylish interior finishes include applied reeded ornament on the drawing room mantel, flat panel wainscoting, molded three-part architraves, and a stair having shaped step end brackets and vernacular turned newels. A pair of unusual double-hinged late Federal doors connects the drawing room to the rear-shed porch of the earlier section of the house. Both sections retain their original cellars for storage use, with windows fitted with horizontal barred grilles in front of hinged sashes.

*WUZIT:* ..... Corncrib/barn

*Est. Date of Construction:* .... 9999
*Accessed?* .....
*Primary Resource?* ..... No
*Number of Stories:* ..... 0.0
*Interior Plan Type:* .....
*Threats to Resource:* .....

*Description:* The northeast corner of the yard is framed by three log corn cribs – two dating from the mid-19th century that face west (south and middle cribs) and a third (north) crib dating from about 1900 – but all sharing a similar traditional gable-roofed form with a variety of early and more modern sheds. The two early cribs retain their original double-sheathed doors on wrought strap hinges. South Crib – Built ca. 1850-60, with saddle notched cypress logs on a hewn sill. The sheds on the north and south sides date from the early 20th century. The series of bird holes cut into the front gable were for doves, according to family tradition; there were nesting boxes inside formed by lapped vertical and horizontal boards; rests on original continuous brick foundation. Middle Crib – Probably built slightly earlier than the south crib, based on the presence of hewn and pit-sawn timbers used in conjunction with the heavy circular-sawn false plates. Both sheds are framed with hewn and pit-sawn timbers suggesting they were early additions. The small access door in the front gable is topped by the remains of an early projecting hoist beam; rests on brick piers. North Crib: While built ca. 1900, this crib is similar to its earlier neighbors, here with slightly smaller diameter cypress logs used for the wall construction; rests on brick piers.

WUZIT: ..... Smoke/Meat House

Est. Date of Construction: .... 1820 ca
Accessed? .....
Primary Resource? ..... No
Number of Stories: ..... 1.0
Interior Plan Type: .....
Threats to Resource: .....

Description: Just east of the house stands the well-preserved smokehouse, most likely also built in the 1820's. It is covered with flush, bevel-edged sheathing boards like those on the kitchen, applied to a secure close-studded frame composed of a mixture of hewn, pit-sawn and sash-sawn members.

WUZIT: ..... Servant Quarters

Est. Date of Construction: .... 1840 ca
Accessed? .....
Primary Resource? ..... No
Number of Stories: ..... 1.0
Interior Plan Type: .....
Threats to Resource: .....

Description: At the east fence line of the yard stands a two-room, central chimney slave house dating from the 1840-1860 period, based on the presences of a few original circular-sawn members interspersed among the largely hewn and sash-sawn frame. The unfinished, whitewashed interior is divided into two rooms by a rough weather boarded partition, positioned to create a larger and smaller room, with no communication between rooms. Entrance was through separate exterior doors on the front or west elevation. The surviving chimney incorporates large splayed jamb fireplaces in each room. The exterior retains most of the original square-edged sash-sawn weatherboards.

WUZIT: ..... Kitchen

Est. Date of Construction: .... 1820 ca
Accessed? .....
Primary Resource? ..... No
Number of Stories: ..... 1.0
Interior Plan Type: .....
Threats to Resource: .....

Description: Immediately behind the original story and a half section of the house stands an intact kitchen of about the same date (ca. 1820-21), which still retains its original flush exterior sheathing and original exterior chimney. The unfinished cooking room on the ground floor was completely segregated from the attic room, which was accessible only via an exterior stair leading up to an original door in the west gable end; stair is missing but there is clear evidence of the supporting platform still visible on the hewn and pit-sawn exterior and interior framing members. A brick-lined root cellar survives in place underneath, accessible by means of a small trap door in the southwest corner of the cooking room floor. There is a 20th century open shed added to the rear.

WUZIT: ..... Archaeological Site

Est. Date of Construction: .... 9999
Accessed? .....
Primary Resource? ..... No
Number of Stories: ..... 0.0
Interior Plan Type: .....
Threats to Resource: .....

Description: Architecture Summary: Site of a carriage house. End Architecture Summary Additions and alterations: End Additions and alterations Interior Description: End Interior Description

***Cemetery Information***

***Bridge Information***

***National Register Eligibility Information*** *(Intensive Level Survey)*

NR Criteria: ..... C- Distinctive chars. of type, period or method of construction

NR Areas of Significance: ..... Architecture
Agriculture

# Department of Historic Resources
## Intensive Level Survey

**Isle Of Wight** — ***DHR Id#:*** **046-0090**

*Historic Context(s):* ..... Architecture/Community Planning

*Property Retains Integrity of:*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1)Association* | **Yes** | *5)Material* | **Yes** |
| *2)Design* | **Yes** | *6)Setting* | **Yes** |
| *3)Feeling* | **Yes** | *7)Workmanship* | **Yes** |
| *4)Location* | **Yes** | | |

*Period of Significance:* ..... 1820-1954

*Historic Time Period(s):*.....
O- Civil War (1861 to 1865)
P- Reconstruction and Growth (1865 to 1914)
Q- World War I to World War II (1914-1945)
N- Antebellum Period (1830 to 1860)

*Events Associated with this Property*

*Event #* 1, Original Construction
*Start Date:* 1820/99/99 *Stop Date:* 9999/99/99 *Date Source:*
*Event Notes:*

*Event #* 2, Major Addition
*Start Date:* 1830/99/99 *Stop Date:* 9999/99/99 *Date Source:*
*Event Notes:*

*Significance Statement:* Developed in several stages over the first half of the nineteenth century, the Pruden House retains its rural setting and a remarkably intact farm complex that includes a kitchen, slave house, smokehouse and two log corn cribs – all dating from the 1820-1860 period, along with a third log corn crib built ca. 1900. The house has been continuously owned and occupied by members of the Pruden family since its construction. The interiors of both the 1820 and later 1830s-40s sections of the house retain virtually all of their original finishes, plans and details, with only minor changes made during the 20th century to provide a bathroom as well as electricity. The significant outbuildings have likewise been maintained and preserved with few alterations, making the site one of the most complete and best preserved of its kind in Southeastern Virginia.

Nathaniel Pruden inherited a 150-acre plantation from his father in 1770, and by the time of the Virginia tax assessment of 1783 this was the average size landholding in the county. Pruden's land was assessed at seven shillings an acre, a shilling above the median, but he had no slaves or horses when the middling Southampton planter had one of each. His economic standing in Isle of Wight improved by the end of the 18th century despite him acquiring no additional land. Declining size of landholding pushed his 150 acres above the median in both 1795 and 1800. He paid an assessment on three slaves in 1795 and two in 1800. Pruden bought two small tracts of in the first decade of the 19th century, ten acres for $41.50 in 1806 and seven acres three years later. By 1810, he paid taxes on 168 acres, placing him in the top 37% of the country's landholders. The number of slaves and horses in his possession had increased to five and three respectively, placing him ahead of 90% of taxpayers, when the middling planter had 110 acres, one horse and no slaves. He acquired three more tracts between 1810 and 1820m the largest a farm of 236 acres, which he bought was Zachariah and Nancy Everitt for $786. By 1820 he owned 609 acres, placing him in the top 5% of county landholders. The per-acre value of his original 150-acre 'manor plantation' was only average at $3.50 per acre when the median assessment was $3.67, indicating that he had invested more in new land and labor then in new housing. He then held seven slaves, more than 94% of the county's taxpayers. The Land Tax Lists for 1821 and 1822 indicated it was then that Pruden constructed his existing hall-chamber and perhaps the kitchen. Buildings do not figure in the 1821 assessment for the home tract and Prudens may even have lived on the more recently-acquired property, where structures were assessed at $500 in 1821, though much of that evaluation probably applied to a gristmill. The following year there were $400 worth of buildings on the home tract, raising the assessed value to $10 an acre.

Pruden added to his real estate holdings again in 1823, paying Thomas M. Dasheild $245 for an unspecified number of acres, but in 1826 he conveyed the 236-acre Everitt plantation to his son, Nathaniel Junior, reserving the mill and an acre of land for himself. This conveyance reduced his holdings to 435 acres, though he remained in the top 12% of Isle of Wight landholders for 1830. He still had seven slaves, when the county's middling planter paid taxes on two slaves and 115.5 acres of land. There were further building improvements on the manor plantation when structures rose $100 in 1836. Physical evidence suggests this could have included the present smokehouse. Pruden did not employ the improvements long; he was dead by December of 1840. The inventory of his estate lists personal possessions like a dining room lamp and a passage lamp- though a long stair enclosure is the closest space in the original house that may be called a passage- and equipment for processing apples as well as 410 gallons of apple brandy, a fishing seine and rope, and twenty-two slaves values at $7,075.

Pruden's estate paid taxes on the land until 1846, when a commissioner sold the manor plantation and the gristmill, with a total of 410 acres to John T. Pruden for $1,090. In 1850, John T. Pruden held 560 acres, an amount that placed him in the top 10% of the country's landholders. A 450-acres parcel including the manor plantation was assessed at a relatively high $11.50 an acre. The house, ancillary buildings, and mill were assessed at $3,000.

Family tradition holds that the two-story addition was built in 1847. The slave house as well as two corn cribs were probably constructed in the same era, though John T. Pruden paid taxes on only four slaves in 1850, fewer than might be expected to require a two-family quarter in addition to the existing kitchen Pruden and his wife sold 430 acres and the gristmill to Edwin C. Pruden for $2,000 in 1860. Five years later Edwin C. Pruden conveyed the 430 acres to James Turner in trust to secure payment of debts to Nathaniel E. Pruden, and the trust deed noted that the plantation was producing corn, fodder, potatoes, peas and oats. Further evidence of its products were evinced in the items sold after Edwin C. Pruden's death in 1867:

an apple mill and presses, cotton in the seed, cotton cards, and fish nets. Nathaniel E. Pruden paid $1,500 for 310 acres including the house and mill in 1860, and he continued to live on the property until after 1906.

### *Bibliographic Documentation*

### *Ownership Information*

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Name:* | Doris Pruden | | | | |
| *Address:* | 21329 Quaker Road | | | | |
| *City.* | Windsor | | | | |
| *Zip:* | 23487 | *State:* | Virginia | *Country:* | USA |
| *Phone/Extension:* | 215-297-5707 | | 000-000-0000 | | |

### *Graphic Media Documentation*

| *Medium* | *Depository ID #* | *Photo Depository* | *Date* | *File Name* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B&W 35mm Photos | 3008 | | 1974/6/99 | |
| B&W 35mm Photos | 3007 | | 1974/6/99 | |
| B&W 35mm Photos | 3009 | | 1974/6/99 | |
| B&W 35 mm Photos | | VDHR | 2004/99/99 | PIF |

### *Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events*

*CRM Event* # 1,
*Cultural Resource Management Event:* Intensive Survey
*Date:* 1973/10/99
*Organization or Person:* Bernard Herman
*CRM Event Notes or Comments:*

*CRM Event* # 2,
*Cultural Resource Management Event:* PIF
*Date.* 2004/08/99
*Organization or Person:* Betty Stagg
*CRM Event Notes or Comments:*

*CRM Event* # 3,
*Cultural Resource Management Event:* DHR Staff: Eligible
*Date:* 2004/08/12
*Organization or Person:*
*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* Pruden Farm, Isle of Wight County, DHR File Number 046-0090
The resource, a E19C farm complex, consists of an altered frame dwelling and a highly significant array of log and frame farm buildings. The resource was evaluated under Criterion C (Architecture) with a POS of ca. 1820-1954. The resource was recommended individually eligible with 34 points.

PRUDEN FARM : SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR FILE

# The Early Architecture of Tidewater Virginia

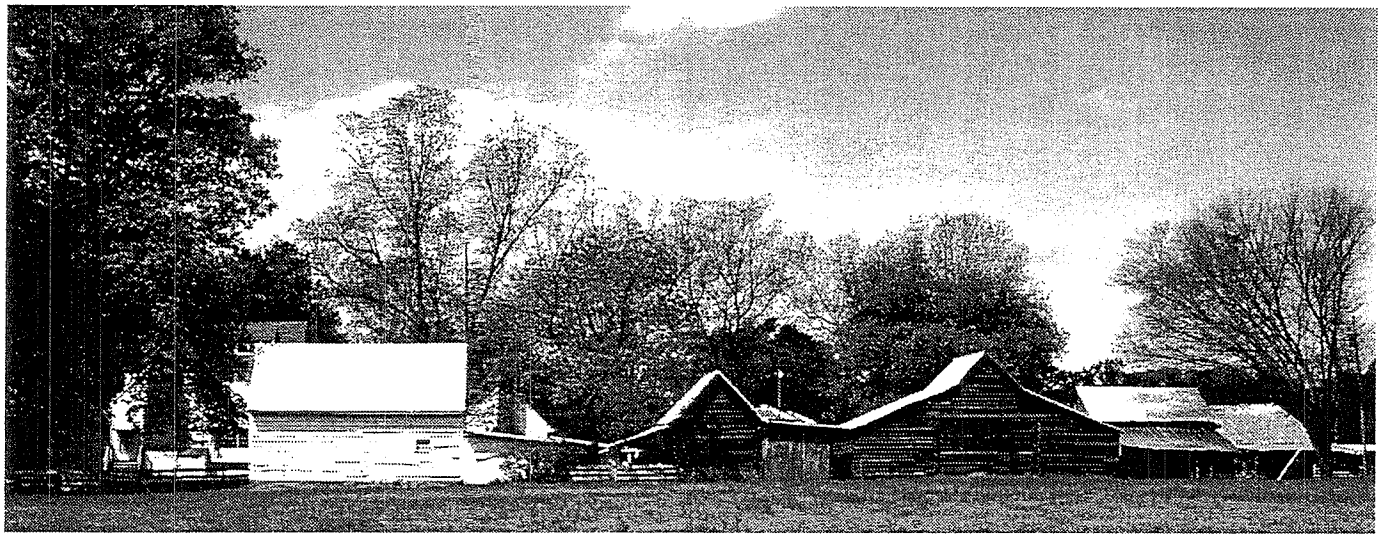
## A Guidebook for the Twenty-third Annual Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference

Architectural Research Department
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Williamsburg, Virginia
May 15-18, 2002

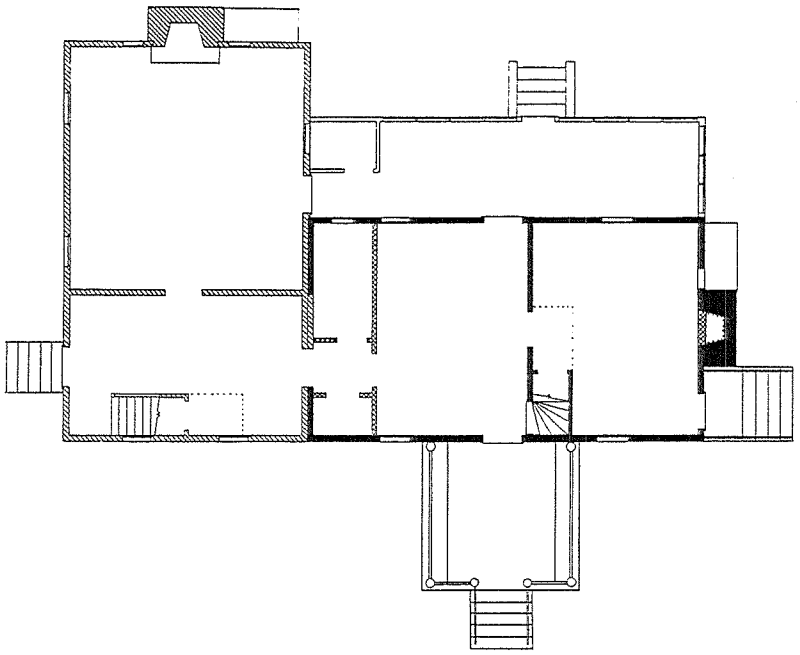
# PRUDEN FARM

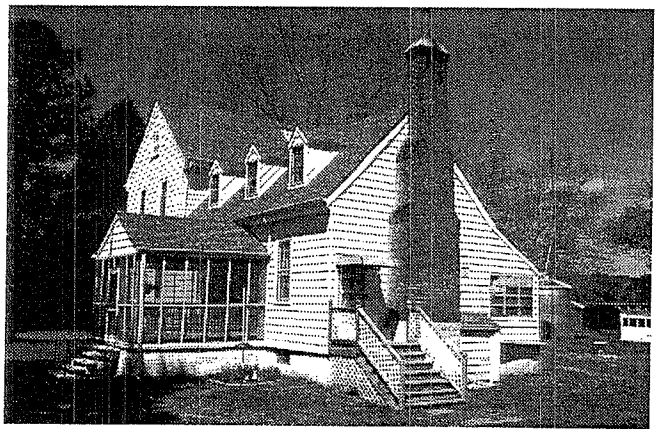
## Isle of Wight County 1820-21, 1830s, third quarter nineteenth century



Developed in several stages over the first half of the nineteenth century, this intact farm complex and house beside Lake Burnt Mills includes a kitchen, slave house, smokehouse and three log corn cribs. Changes in tax valuations indicate that the earliest story-and-a-half portion of the house—the present rear wing—was built 1820-21 during the ownership of Nathaniel Pruden, whose holdings then included 609 acres. As the owner of seven slaves in 1820, Pruden ranked among the top six percent of the county's slaveowners. This hall-chamber dwelling was finished in the plain late-federal manner of rural southeastern Virginia with paneled wainscoting, nine-over-nine windows, and an enclosed winder stair. Apparently contemporary with this first house is the south-facing porch with bold turned posts and integral benches supported by shaped brackets. The one remaining double-shoulder chimney shows the use of 1:3 bond brickwork and stepped-shoulder form that had become universal in the region by 1820.

*Top: view of the outbuilding complex at Pruden Farm. Photograph by Peter Sandbeck, 2002. Bottom: first-floor plan of the Pruden House. Measured by Michael Bourne and*

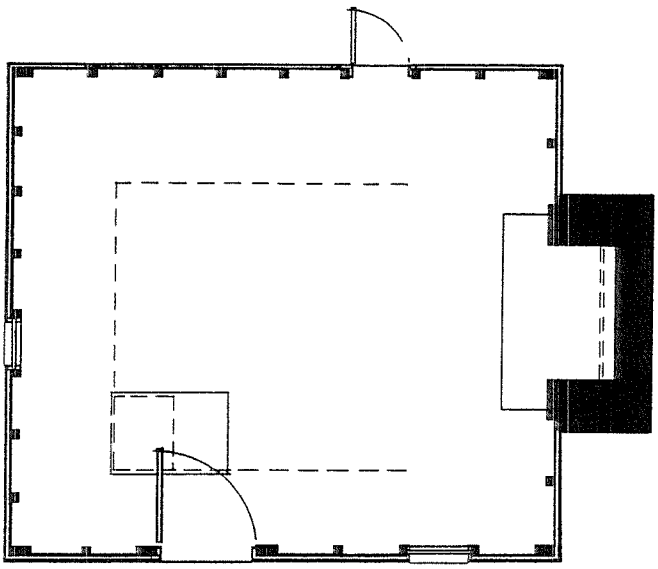




*Original one-story section of the Pruden House. Photograph by Peter Sandbeck, 2002.*

This early section was re-oriented by the addition of a two-story, side-passage wing at the west end, completed by Pruden in the 1830s. The new addition resulted in the replacement of the former west chimney with a doorway that provided a link to the new side passage. Many original exterior details remain visible, including nine-over-nine and six-over-nine sash windows, an unusual arched gable-end window treatment, and a block modillion cornice—the latter two elements now clad in aluminum. The stepped-shoulder chimney at the north end shows the same bond, shoulder configuration, and detailing as the earliest one. In this wing, its more stylish interior finishes include applied reeded ornament on the mantel and a pair of unusual double-hinged late federal-period doors. Both sections have cellars intended for storage use with windows fitted with horizontal barred grilles in front of hinged sash.

*Plan of the Pruden Kitchen. The large square in the center of the plan delineates the extent of a root cellar formed by brick walls. Measured by Mark Schara. Drawn by Jeffery Bostetter*



The earliest outbuilding is the kitchen, sited directly behind the original 1821 hall—and—chamber house, probably dates to the same period. Each of its two rooms—one on each floor—was segregated, presumably to provide slave housing above a kitchen workplace. The lower room follows a conventional layout, with a single door opening into an unfinished room that contains a large cooking fireplace in a roughly detailed end chimney with stepped shoulders. There is a brick-lined root cellar in front of the hearth accessible via a trap door. The sole entrance to the attic room was from an exterior door in the west gable with access provided by an external stair and landing; the two trimmers that supported the stair can be seen in the ceiling framing of the kitchen space. Originally, the first floor was lit by small windows in three walls, each fitted with a single batten shutter or sash that slid in tracks nailed to the jamb studs. Like the smokehouse, this building is finished with bevel-lapped siding and beaded fascia boards.

East of the kitchen stands a smokehouse of about the same date, finished with flush, bevel-lapped siding applied over closely spaced stud-wall framing typical of smokehouses and meat houses of the period. The somewhat peculiar corner-brace system seen here incorporates conventional mortised braces on the rear wall, combined with braces set just inside the plane of the studs on the other three walls. The other more conventional framing includes two rows of hanging beams, plus additional hanging space in the form of two rows of collars made of plain boards nailed to the sides of the rafters.

Off to the northeast corner of the house yard formed by the placement of the kitchen and smokehouse stands a two-room, central-chimney slavehouse. Like other two-unit quarters in the Chesapeake, the building has separate front doors and originally had no access between the rooms. The south room is slightly larger and is the only one to have a brick-lined root cellar like that in the kitchen. Both rooms have large splayed fireplaces. Light was provided by two small windows per room, with those on the front and rear walls fitted with single sliding shutters or sash, while the gable-end windows show evidence for hinged shutters. There is no evidence that the attic level was ever floored and was thus not utilized for living space.

*Kitchen (left) and slavehouse in the domestic yard at the Pruden Farm. Photograph by Peter Sandbeck, 2002.*

Three cribs at the far corner of the farmyard share a common form and general building technology. Two seem to have been built at the same time, in the mid-nineteenth century, and the third was added early in the present century. All are constructed of unworked saddle-notched logs above hewn sills, and each has a single room behind a gable-end opening. All now have side sheds, but only those on the central building are original. The two early cribs, which stand close together at the east side of the farmyard, show slightly different framing techniques. In the south crib, four of the five heavy hewn floor joists are joined to the side sills with half dovetails. The central crib shows the contrasting use of six unhewn or pole joists simply lapped over the side sills. Both buildings have four-inch-thick false plates that are circular sawn, indicating a date of no earlier than the 1850s in this region. The heavy lower floorboards are pegged rather than nailed to the joists, a technique found in early barns in western Virginia and Maryland, but it is a rare detail in eastern Virginia.

The complex included a stilted dairy or milk house destroyed by a recent storm. Originally of ground-set-post construction with hewn and pit-sawn members, the dairy probably dated from the 1820s period of the main house and kitchen. The Pruden Farm has remained in continuous ownership by the Pruden family since its construction. PS

*Pruden Corn Crib, dating just prior to the Civil War. Note holes in the gable siding that create nesting boxes for doves. Photograph by Edward Chappell, 1982.*

# Preliminary Evaluation Form (PIF): Individual Property

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Property Name: Pruden House and Farm

Score: 34

File No.: 046-0090

Date: 8/12/05

City/County: Isle of Wight County

Chair: MCW

**National Register Criteria**

_____ Criterion A – Broad Patterns of History
_____ Criterion B – Important Person
_X_ Criterion C – Architecture / Craftsmanship
_____ Criterion D – Archaeology / Potential to yield information
_____ Criteria Exceptions (*specify*): _____

1. NRHP Property Type(s): Domestic: Single Family; Secondary Structures
2. Period(s) of Significance: Ca 1820-1954
3. Area(s) of Significance: Architecture; Agriculture
4. Adequacy of Existing Survey: Excellent (E) Very Good (V) Good (G) Fair (F) Poor (P) (Enter letter): G
5. Level of Significance: Local (L) Regional (R) State (S) National (N) (Enter letter): L

**Assignment of Basic Points**

1. Rarity of Property Type in Context 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (Enter 0-8): 5
2. Integrity
   a) Association 0 1 2 3 4 (Enter 0-4): 3
   b) Design 0 1 2 3 4 (Enter 0-4): 3
   c) Feeling 0 1 2 3 4 (Enter 0-4): 3
   d) Location 0 1 2 (Enter 0-2): 2
   e) Materials 0 1 2 3 4 (Enter 0-4): 3
   f) Setting 0 1 2 3 4 (Enter 0-4): 3
   g) Workmanship 0 1 2 3 4 (Enter 0-4): 3
3. Contextual Integrity
   Immediate Surroundings & Associated Resources 0 1 2 3 4 (Enter 0-4): 3
4. Historical Associative Value
   Criterion A -- History 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (Enter 0-8): ____
   Criterion B -- Person 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (Enter 0-8): ____
   Criterion C – Architecture/Craftsmanship 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (Enter 0-8): 5
   Criterion D – Archaeological Potential 0 1 2 3 (Enter 0-3): 1

**Assignment of Extra Points**

1. Unusually Good Representative of Type 0 1 2 3 (Enter 0-3): ____
2. Illustrates History of Ethnic & Cultural Minorities 0 1 2 3 (Enter 0-3): ____
3. Illustrates Distinctive Ways of Life Under-Represented on Register 0 1 2 3 (Enter 0-3): ____
4. Offers Exceptional Potential for Study & Interpretation 0 1 2 3 (Enter 0-3): ____
5. Visual Prominence as a Landmark 0 1 2 3 (Enter 0-3): ____
6. Regional Representation on Register 0 1 2 3 (Enter 0-3): ____
7. Landscape Features of Exceptional Quality 0 1 2 3 (Enter 0-3): ____

**Comments:** This is a wonderfully intact working early 19th century farm complex that has always been in the same family. The only new materials appear to be roofing, aluminum siding and storm windows that protect the original wooden sash ones.

**Score:** 34

# Virginia Department of Historic Resources
## PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

### General Property Information

For Staff Use Only
DHR ID #: 046-0090

Property Name(s): Pruden House and Farm

Property Date(s): 1820-21; 1835-47; with outbuildings up to ca 1920 ☒Circa ☐Pre ☐Post

Open to the Public? ☐Yes ☒No

Property Address: 21329 Quaker Road City: Windsor Zip: 23487

County or Inc. City: Isle of Wight USGS Quad(s): Windsor Quad

### Physical Character of General Surroundings

Acreage: 159 Setting (choose one): ☐City ☐Urban ☐Town ☐Suburban ☒Rural ☐Transportation Corridor

Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features:

The Pruden Farm is sited on high ground overlooking Lake Burnt Mills, in a rural, unspoiled setting characterized by traditional open fields and timber land. The house and its significant collection of early outbuildings—slave house, kitchen, smokehouse and 3 corn cribs—are arranged around a working yard **[please see attached site plan]**, with the outbuildings forming the east and north edges of the yard, while the original house and its early addition form an L-plan that encloses the yard to the south and west. Quaker Road (Rt. 654) runs east-west in front of the house, to the south, then turns 90 degrees to the north just past the house, forming the western boundary of the house yard. The setting around the house and outbuildings is enhanced by a number of mature shade trees, crape myrtles and cedars.

Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property:

Kitchen (Photo 9): Immediately behind the original story and a half section of the house stands an intact kitchen of about the same date (ca. 1820-21), which still retains its original flush exterior sheathing and original exterior chimney. The unfinished cooking room on the ground floor was completely segregated from the attic room, which was accessible only via an exterior stair leading up to an original door in the west gable end; the stair is missing but there is clear evidence of the supporting platform still visible on the hewn and pit-sawn exterior and interior framing members. A brick-lined root cellar survives in place underneath, accessible by means of a small trap door in the southwest corner of the cooking room floor. There is a 20th century open shed added to the rear.

Slave House (Photo 11): At the east fence line of the yard stands a two-room, central chimney slave house dating from the 1840-1860 period, based on the presence of a few original circular-sawn members interspersed among the largely hewn and sash-sawn frame. The unfinished, whitewashed interior is divided into two rooms by a rough weatherboarded partition, positioned to create a larger and smaller room, with no communication between rooms. Entrance was through separate exterior doors on the front or west elevation. The surviving chimney incorporates large splayed jamb fireplaces in each room. The exterior retains most of the original square-edged sash-sawn weatherboards.

Smokehouse (Photo 10): Just east of the house stands the well-preserved smokehouse, most likely also built in the 1820's. It is covered with flush, bevel-edged sheathing boards like those on the kitchen, applied to a secure close-studded frame composed of a mixture of hewn, pit-sawn and sash-sawn members.

Corn Cribs (Photo 12): The northeast corner of the yard is framed by three log corn cribs—two dating from the mid 19th century that face west (south and middle cribs) and a third (north) crib dating from about 1900—but all sharing a similar traditional gable-roofed form with a variety of early and more modern sheds. The two early cribs retain their original double-sheathed doors on wrought strap hinges.

South Crib: Built ca. 1850-60, with saddle-notched cypress logs on a hewn sill. The sheds on the north and south sides date from the early 20th century. The series of bird holes cut into the front gable were for doves, according to family tradition; there are nesting boxes inside formed by lapped vertical and horizontal boards; rests on original continuous brick foundation.

Middle Crib: Probably built slightly earlier than the south crib, based on the presence of hewn and pit-sawn timbers used in conjunction with heavy circular-sawn false plates. Both sheds are framed with hewn and pit-sawn timbers, suggesting they were early additions. The small access door in the front gable is topped by the remains of an early projecting hoist beam; rests on brick piers.

North Crib: While built ca. 1900, this crib is similar to its earlier neighbors, here with slightly smaller diameter cypress logs used for the wall construction; rests on brick piers.

Chicken House: A small ca. 1940-50 wood frame shed-roofed chicken house stands north of the house.

Ownership Category: ☒Private ☐Public-Local ☐Public-State ☐Public-Federal

## Individual Resource Information

What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc ..

Dwelling, with full complement of period outbuildings for a working farm

What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) _____

Architectural style or elements of styles: Vernacular Federal style

Architect, builder, or original owner: Original owner: Nathaniel Pruden

# of stories 1-1/2 & 2 Condition: ☐Excellent ☒Good ☐Fair ☐Deteriorated ☐Poor ☐Ruins ☐Rebuilt ☐Renovated

Are there any known threats to this property? Gradual aging is taking its toll on the house and outbuildings; it has been lovingly maintained, but not restored

| Resource Component Information |
|---|
| Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure. |
| **Foundation:** Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.<br>Original c 1821 house: three-to-one American bond continuous foundation wall for full cellar, with original wood barred grilles in openings.<br>c. 1830's-40's addition: three-to-one American bond foundation for full cellar, with original barred grilles and sashes behind. |
| **Structure:** Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.<br>Both sections of house: hewn and pit-sawn traditional braced frame |
| **Walls:** Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.<br>Both sections of house: original beaded weatherboards secured with cut nails, now covered in nearly all areas with aluminum siding. |
| **Windows:** Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced?<br>Original c 1821 house: 9 over 9 original wood sashes first floor; 4 over 4 wood orig in gable end; 6 over six orig and repl. wood sashes 2nd fl ; all with modern storm windows over; original surrounds intact but covered with aluminum.<br>ca. 1830s-40s addition: 9 over 9 orig wood sashes first floor; 6 over 9 orig wood on 2nd fl. ; 1960's dormers have modern wood sashes; all with modern storm windows over; original surrounds intact but covered with aluminum. |
| **Porch:** Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.<br>c1821 section: intact early gable roofed porch or portico, dating from either the 1820s or added when the two story house was built, with heavy vernacular turned posts with simple handrails mortised into the sides, original scalloped boards along the eaves, and original built-in benches resting on handsome shaped brackets. **(see photo 1)** The original portico on the later two-story addition has been removed, but portions of reeded pillars for this porch survive in one of the outbuildings. |
| **Roof:** Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.<br>Gable roofs on both sections, covered with asphalt shingles. |
| **Chimney(s):** List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.<br>1821 section: original double shoulder chimney of three-course American bond brickwork remains at the east end, with stepped shoulders, in good condition.<br>1830s-40s addition: original double shoulder chimney, three-course American bond, with stepped shoulders. |

**Architectural Description of Individual Resource or General Description of District:** (*Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

Changes in tax valuations indicate that the earliest story-and-a-half portion of the house—the present rear wing—was built 1820-21 during the ownership of Nathaniel Pruden, whose holdings then included 609 acres. As the owner of seven slaves in 1820, Pruden ranked among the top six percent of the county's slaveowners. This early hall-chamber dwelling was finished in the plain late Federal manner of rural southeastern Virginia with flat-paneled wainscoting, nine-over-nine windows and an enclosed winder stair. The interiors are largely unaltered, and retain six panel Federal doors and plain period mantels. **(photo 8)** Apparently contemporary with this first house is the south-facing porch or portico, with its bold turned posts, scalloped eave treatment, and integral benches supported by shaped brackets. The one remaining double-shoulder chimney shows the use of three-to-one common bond brickwork and stepped shoulder form that had become universal in the region by the 1820's. Alterations have been confined to the addition of a north-south partition wall in the larger west room or hall to create a bathroom, and the enclosure of the early shed-roofed rear porch. The original wood porch floor was replaced with a concrete slab supported by a brick foundation wall. **(see floor plan drawing)**

This early section was re-oriented by the addition of a two-story, side-passage section at the west end, probably completed during the 1830's or 1840's under Pruden's ownership. This addition resulted in the replacement of the former original west chimney with a doorway that provided a link to the newly-created

side passage. Many original exterior details remain visible, including the nine-over-nine and six-over-nine sashes, an unusual arched gable end window treatment, and a block modillion cornice—the latter two elements now clad in modern aluminum but surviving underneath. The stepped shoulder chimney at the north end shows the same bond, shoulder configuration and detailing as the earliest one. In this section, the somewhat more stylish interior finishes include applied reeded ornament on the drawing room mantel, flat panel wainscoting, molded three-part architraves, and a stair having shaped step end brackets and vernacular turned newels. **(photos 5-6)** A pair of unusual double-hinged late Federal doors connects the drawing room to the rear shed porch of the earlier section of the house. **(photo 7)** Both sections retain their original cellars for storage use, with windows fitted with horizontal barred grilles in front of hinged sashes. **(see floor plan drawing)**

**Significance Statement:** Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

Developed in several stages over the first half of the nineteenth century, the Pruden House retains its rural setting and a remarkably intact farm complex that includes a kitchen, slave house, smokehouse and two log corn cribs—all dating from the 1820-1860 period, along with a third log corn crib built ca. 1900. The house has been continuously owned and occupied by members of the Pruden family since its construction. The interiors of both the 1820 and later 1830s-40s sections of the house retain virtually all of the their original finishes, plans and details, with only minor changes made during the 20th century to provide a bathroom as well as electricity. The significant outbuildings have likewise been maintained and preserved with few alterations, making the site one of the most complete and best preserved of its kind in southeastern Virginia.

Nathaniel Pruden inherited a 150-acre plantation from his father in 1770, and by the time of the Virginia tax assessment of 1783 this was the average size landholding in the county. Pruden's land was assessed at seven shillings an acre, a shilling above the median, but he had no slaves or horses when the middling Southampton planter had one of each. His economic standing in Isle of Wight improved by the end of the 18th century despite him acquiring no additional land. Declining size of landholding pushed his 150 acres above the median in both 1795 and 1800. He paid an assessment on three slaves in 1795 and two in 1800. Pruden bought two small tracts in the first decade of the 19th century, ten acres for $41.50 in 1806 and seven acres three years later. By 1810, he paid taxes on 168 acres, placing him in the top 37% of the county's landholders. The number of slaves and horses in his possession had increased to five and three respectively, placing him ahead of 90% of taxpayers, when the middling planter had 110 acres, one horse and no slaves. He acquired three more tracts between 1810 and 1820, the largest a farm of 236 acres, which he bought from Zachariah and Nancy Everitt for $786. By 1820 he owned 609 acres, placing him in the top 5% of county landholders. The per-acre value of his original 150-acre "manor plantation" was only average, at $3.50 per acre when the median assessment was $3.67, indicating that he had invested more in new land and labor than in new housing. He then held seven slaves, more than 94% of the county's taxpayers. The Land Tax Lists for 1821 and 1822 indicate it was then that Pruden constructed his existing hall-chamber and perhaps the kitchen. Buildings do not figure in the 1821 assessment for the home tract, and Prudens may even have lived on the more recently-acquired property, where structures were assessed at $500 in 1821, though much of that evaluation probably applied to a gristmill. The following year there were $400 worth of buildings on the home tract, raising the assessed value to $10 an acre.[1]

[1] Isle of Wight County Wills (8) 515-16, dated 10 Dec. 1774 and recorded 7 Jan. 1779; (9) 1-3, ordered 7 Jan 1779 and recorded 1 April 1779; Land and Personal Property Tax List, 1783, 1795, and 1800. Deeds (20) 214, dated 11 Feb. 1806 and recorded 1 Sept. 1806; (21) 171-72, dated 7 Sept. 1809 and recorded 2 April 1810; Land and Personal Property Tax Lists, 1810; Deeds (21) 369-70, dated 28 Nov. 1810 and recorded 6 May 1812; (18) 83-84, dated and recorded 8 July 1796; ibid., p. 268, dated 20 Dec. 1797 and recorded 4 June 1798; Land Tax Lists, 1795 and 1800; Deeds (21) 458-59, dated 8 April 1812 and

Pruden added to his real estate holdings again in 1823, paying Thomas M. Dashield $245 for an unspecified number of area, but in 1826 he conveyed the 236-acre Everitt plantation to his son, Nathaniel Junior, reserving the mill and an acre of land for himself. This conveyance reduced his holdings to 435 acres, though he remained in the top 12% of Isle of Wight landholders in 1830. He still had seven slaves, when the county's middling planter paid taxes on two slaves and 115.5 acres of land. There were further building improvements on the manor plantation when structures rose $100 in 1836. Physical evidence suggests this could have included the present smokehouse. Pruden did not employ the improvements long; he was dead by December of 1840. The inventory of his estate lists personal possessions like a dining room lamp and a passage lamp -- though a long stair enclosure is the closest only space in the original house that might be called a passage -- and equipment for processing apples as well as 410 gallons of apple brandy, a fishing seine and rope, and twenty-two slaves valued at $7, 075.[2]

Pruden's estate paid taxes on the land until 1846, when a commissioner sold the manor plantation and the gristmill, with a total of 410 acres to John T. Pruden for $1,090. In 1850, John T. Pruden held 560 acres, an amount that placed him in the top 10% of the country's landholders. A 450-acre parcel including the manor plantation was assessed at a relatively high $11.50 an acre. The house, ancillary buildings, and mill were assessed at $3,000. [3]

Family tradition holds that the two-story addition was built in 1847. The slave house as well as two corncribs were probably constructed in the same era, though John T. Pruden paid taxes on only four slaves in 1850, fewer than might be expected to require a two-family quarter in addition to the existing kitchen. Pruden and his wife Sarah sold 430 acres and the gristmill to Edwin C. Pruden for $2,000 in 1860. Five years later Edwin C. Pruden conveyed the 430 acres to James Turner in trust to secure payment of debts to Nathaniel E. Pruden, and the trust deed noted that the plantation was producing corn, fodder, potatoes, peas, and oats. Further evidence of its products were evinced in the items sold after Edwin C. Pruden's death in 1867: an apple mill and presses, cotton in the seed, cotton cards, and fish nets. Nathaniel E. Pruden paid $1,500 for 310 acres including the house and mill in 1860, and he continued to live on the property until after 1906.[4]

**Note:**
Significance statement by Edward A. Chappell, Architectural Research Department, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.
Research by Julie Richter, Vanessa E. Patrick and George Yetter, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.
Additional oral history provided by Doris S. Pruden, owner.

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recorded 5 May 1812; (22) 11-12, dated and recorded 1 Feb. 1813; Land and Personal Property Tax Lists, 1820; Land Tax Lists, 1821 and 1822.

[2] Deeds (26) 74-75, dated 14 July 1823 and recorded 4 Aug. 1823; ibid., (27) 134, dated and recorded 10 June 1826; Land and Personal Property Tax Lists, 1830; Land Tax Lists, 1835 and 1836; Wills (21) 392-95, dated 10 Dec. 1839 and recorded 7 Dec. 1840.

[3] Deeds (37) 20-21, dated 9 Sept. 1846 and recorded 1 Feb. 1847; Land Tax List, 1850.

[4] However, in July 1981, Brooklyn and Doris Pruden said the house may have been built by Clevis and Pocahontas Pruden. In Oct. 2001 Doris Pruden said she thought it was built in 1847. Interview with Camille Wells, Pruden farm, July, 1981. Interview with Edward Chappell, Pruden farm, Oct. 17, 2001. Personal property tax list, 1850; Deeds recorded 7 Sept. 1865; Wills (29) 336, dated 13 Dec. 1867 and recorded 5 Sept. 1867; ibid., 337, dated 13 Dec. 1867 and recorded 5 Sept. 1867; Deeds (73) 618-19. dated 18 Sept, 1906 and recorded 28 Sept. 1906.

**Legal Owner(s) of the Property** (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☒
Ms. ☐ Miss ☐ Doris S. Pruden
(Name) (Firm)

| 21329 Quaker Road | Windsor | VA | 23487 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (Address) | (City) | (State) | (Zip Code) |

| None | 757-255-4776 |
|---|---|
| (Email Address) | (Daytime telephone including area code) |

Owner's Signature: X Doris S. Pruden Date:

***Signature required for processing all applications.***

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: Betty M. Stagg, Niece of Owner

Daytime Telephone: ( 215 ) 297-5707

**Applicant Information** (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐
Ms. ☒ Miss ☐ Betty M. Stagg, Niece of Owner
(Name) (Firm)

| P.O. Box 292 | Solebury | PA | 18963 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (Address) | (City) | (State) | (Zip Code) |

| bettystagg@comcast.net | 215-297-5707 |
|---|---|
| (Email Address) | (Daytime telephone including area code) |

Applicant's Signature: Betty M. Stagg Date:

**Notification**

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐ W. Douglas Caskey County Administrator
(Name) (Position)

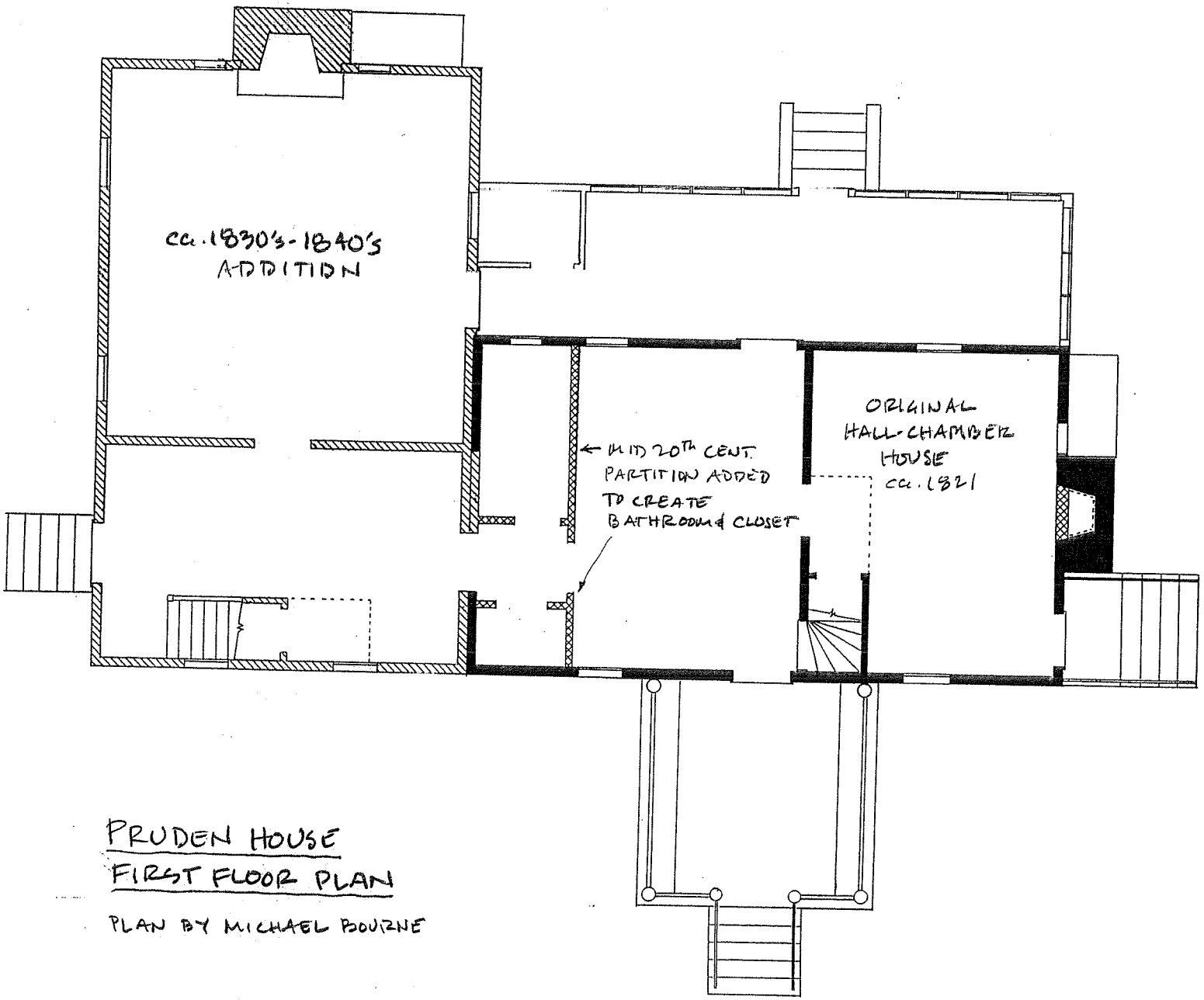
| Isle of Wight County | P.O. Box 80 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (Locality) | (Address) | | |
| Isle of Wight, | VA | 23397 | 757-357-3191 or365-6204 |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip Code) | (Daytime telephone including area code) |

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Based on the information researched by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and family, we believe this intact 19th Century farm complex with many interesting architectural features, is deserving of this honor and designation. We hope that if it is so designated, we will be able to continue to preserve and protect it.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☐ No ☐

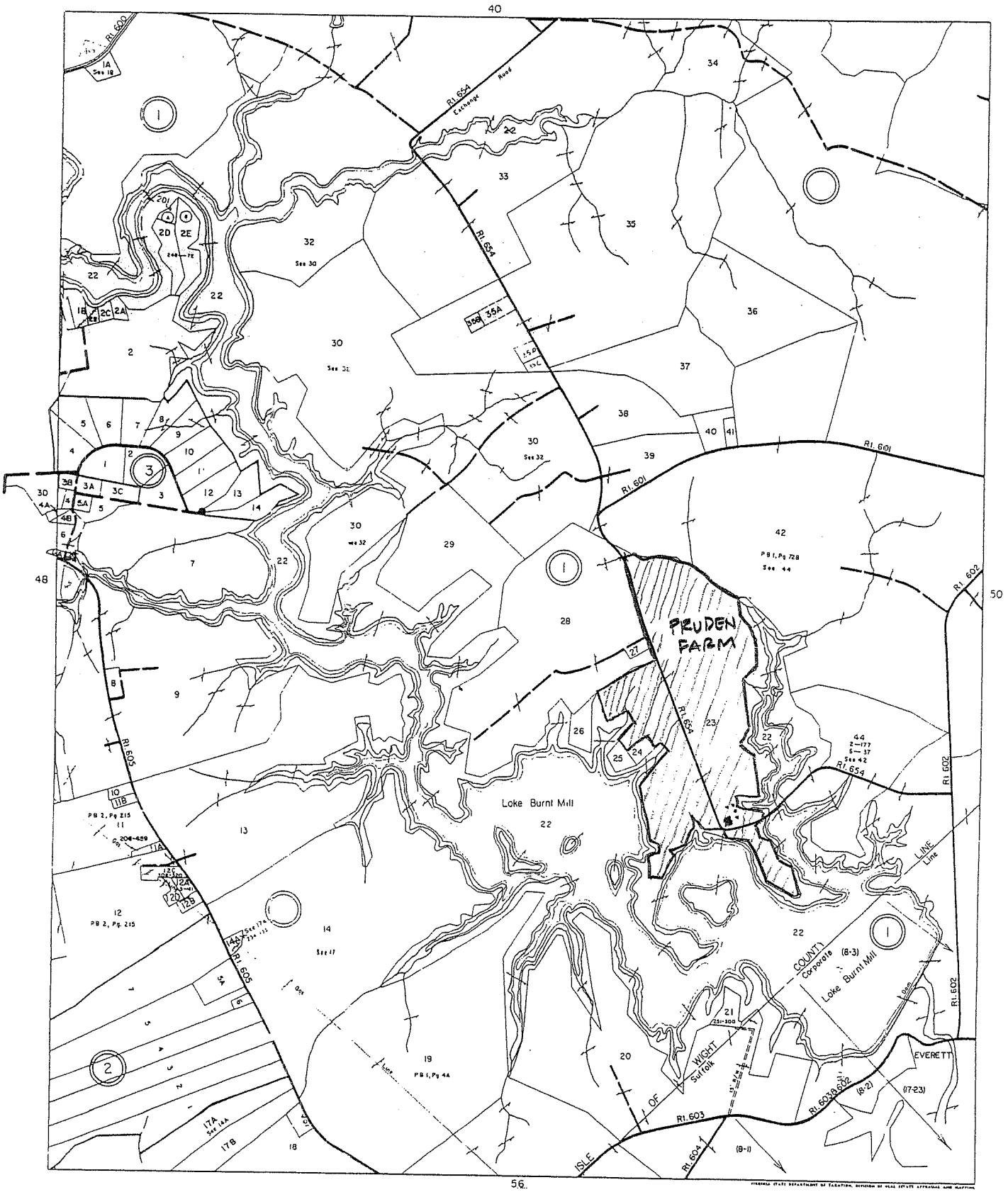



NORTH

# PRUDEN HOUSE
## FIRST FLOOR PLAN

PLAN BY MICHAEL BOURNE

# ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY



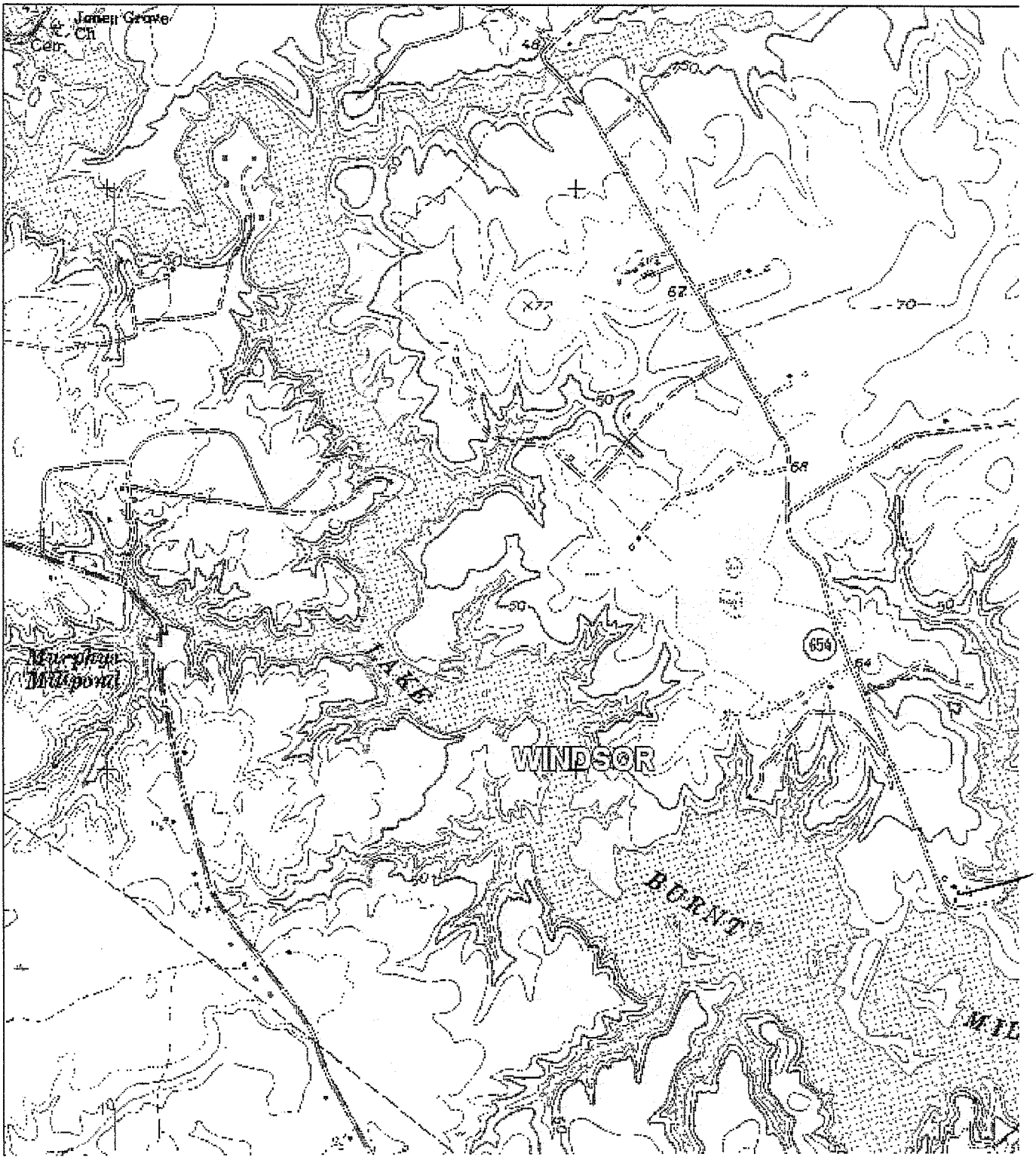

NEWPORT DISTRICT

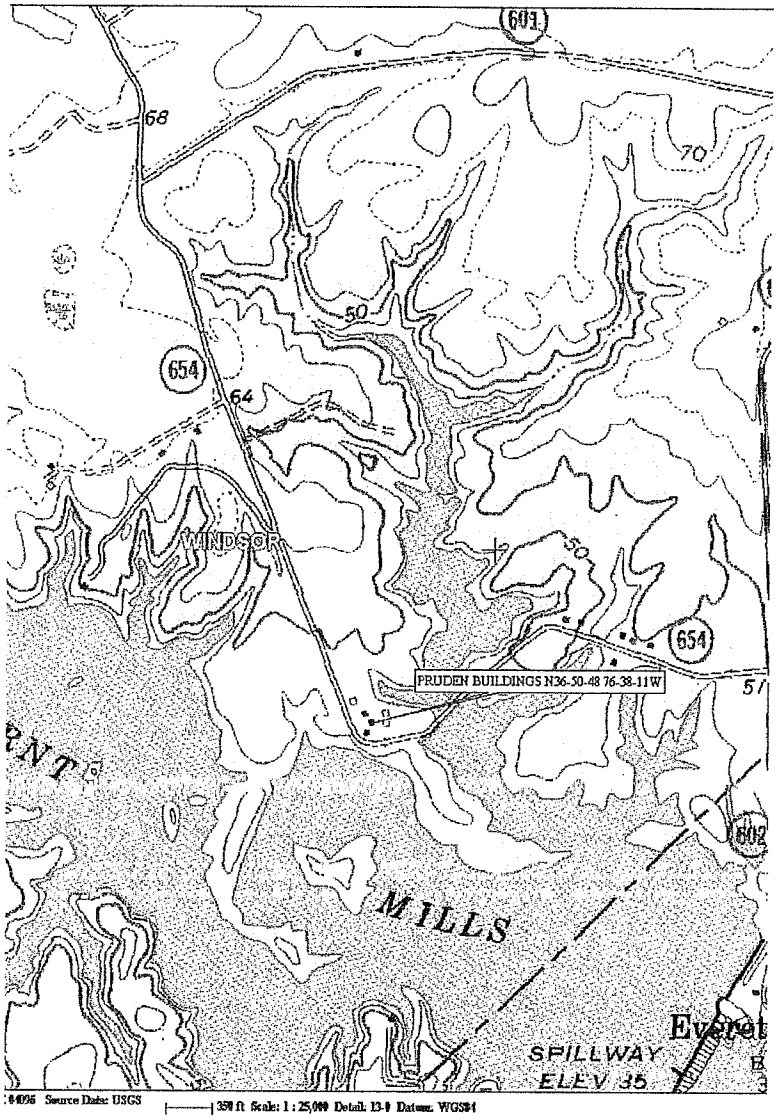
SECTION 49
INSERT

REVISED: 5/23/77

## Betty Stagg

**From:** <BStagg55@aol.com>
**To:** <bettystagg@comcast.net>
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2004 8:44 AM
**Attach:** PRUDEN.jpg; PRUDEN2.jpg; PRUDEN3.jpg
**Subject:** Re: Quad Map Request




603
68
70
50
654
64
WINDSOR
654
PRUDEN BUILDINGS N36-50-48 76-38-11W
51
602
MILLS
SPILLWAY
ELEV 35
Everet
4096 Source Data: USGS
350 ft Scale: 1 : 25,000 Detail: 13-9 Datum: WGS84

**Pruden Farm**
**Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

**Photographs taken April 6, 2004**
**By Betty Stagg**

Photo #

1. House – Front view
2. House – Back view
3. House – Side view
4. House – view from road

5. House Interior – Entrance Hall and Stairs
6. House Interior – Parlor
7. House Interior – Double hinged door with latch string
8. House Interior – Room in earliest section

9. Kitchen
10. Smoke House
11. Slave House
12. Log Cribs